Call to Worship

Leader: Creator of all, we gather today thankful that you have welcomed us.

People: We give thanks that through our hardest times, God has heard our cry.

Leader: Just as God has accompanied us on our journey, we are called to walk alongside those who have been mistreated, persecuted and outcast.

People: Together as a faith community, we are called to be a space of love and safe refuge for all people.

Leader: Let us work together with refugees and immigrants from many different lands to welcome them in, and let us pray that the crisis might soon end.

People: As we wait for You to answer these prayers, we re-commit ourselves to be a welcoming congregation lifting up immigrants and refugees in our midst and preparing ourselves to advocate with them by our side. Amen.

Call to Worship #2

Leader: We give praise to our God who gathers us as one people.

People: We delight in our God who has mercy upon us.

Leader: We seek to be one with refugees, asylum seekers and immigrants.

People: Clear our eyes that we may see the sufferings of displaced people.

Leader: We welcome those whose lives have been dislocated by war, famine and injustice.

People: Open our ears that we may hear the cries of those deep in despair.

Leader: We express our solidarity with all who search for a new life, a new home, a new promise.

People: Guide our feet that we may spread comfort; loosen our tongues that we might speak words of hope.

Leader: Give us open hearts that we may be truly welcoming to the stranger in our midst.

People: God remind us that through our acts of hospitality we are restored to you. Amen.
Unaccompanied minors, above, fled their homes in search of peace and live in a shelter supported by CWS and UNHCR in Jakarta, Indonesia. Represent multiple countries including Afghanistan, Pakistan, Somalia and Sri Lanka, they left from conflict involving Taliban, Al Shabab, ethnic or religious discrimination. Their faces are not showing to protect their identity. Photo: Lisa Hayes/CWS

Intercessions

For or neighbors around the world, our own nation, and the fellowship of nations.
For refugees, and those in harm’s way.
For peacemakers, relief workers, and policy makers.
For the voices of peoples of faith, that we may have courage, grace, integrity and the strength to listen and to speak. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Oh God, our creator and liberator, we pray for all those who face the trials and tribulations of exclusion. We lift up all those who have been made outcast in our world; for those impoverished by inequality, for those who find themselves in the cold from homelessness, for those who are treated differently because of their skin color or religious background. Today we say a special prayer for all the refugees in the world who have faced violence and persecution. Now many of them face discrimination upon arriving to the safety of this land. Strengthen our faith to be accepting to all and fortify our witness to advocate for just and humane policies that expand the path of welcome for refugees to join our communities. In the same way, we pray for all those who face sickness and disease, in our congregation and throughout our community, may Your blessing comfort them and may Your healing power touch them. In the Spirit of love and compassion we pray. Amen.

Source: www.interfaithimmigration.org
Gathering Prayer

Leader: Mother, Father, Creator God; Author of all that is good - of life, peace, justice and safety; You have created us all in your image. We exist because of the radical welcome granted each one of us at birth. You have created us as refugees, asylum seekers and immigrants.

Women: We pray for all those displaced by violence and disaster - for all those forced to leave their homes with no hope of return.

Men: For those forced to flee seeking essential services like healthcare and education; we grieve the millions forced to live in overcrowded camps and urban slums with no opportunities for work or recreation.

Leader: We pray for a world overwhelmed by xenophobia, for those in detention and under the threat of deportation, for policies that uphold human rights and dignity, and do not seek to tear families apart and criminalize people without documentation.

People: God we thank you for the chance to celebrate the human community as one community; a day to affirm the worth and dignity of all your people; a people that share many things in common, and are also wonderfully different.